A

SHORT RELATION,

Concerning a

DREAM,

Which the Author had on the Eighteenth Day of September, in the Year One Thouſand Seven Hundred and Sixty Nine. With ſome Remarks on the late Comet.

Together

With a ſhort Exhortation to all into whoſe Hands my Dream ſhall fall.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

A Dream.

BEING tired and very much wore out, and almoſt overcome, by reaſon of a long and tedious confinement; I threw myſelf back upon my Bed, and fell into a Trance; nd all at once I found myſelf in a ſtrange Road, hich was very much attended with many Evils; y reaſon that it was frequented by wicked peo- le that paſſed that way. I ſeemed to be in great fright, my fleſh trembled, the hair of y head ſtood upright; I heard nothing but voice ſaying, Woe, to mortal Man, for the nd of all fleſh draws nigh: The time is at and, that is ſpoken of by the Angel in the velations, which ſtood with one foot on the and, and the other upon the Sea, and ſware by im that liveth forever and ever, that Time ould be no longer; to which another Voice id, Holy! Holy! Holy! Juſt and true art Thou Lord in all thy Ways, thou doeth what is ght in thine own Eyes; for all Fleſh is as Graſs efore thee. Men have corrupted their Ways be- re the Lord, for which, Evil ſhall overſpread e Land.

I being in a great Surprize, to think that I ad got where no mortal Man was to be ſeen, nly a voice crying out, as I have told you: But

all at once I heard nothing; my fears abated, and my way ſeemed to be more pleaſant to me. Looking ſtraight before me I ſaw a Company of Men coming towards me, but they ſeemed to be at a great Diſtance, but making great haſte towards me.

But beholding juſt by me, there ſat a grave old Man by the way ſide; he was a very Aged Man; his Hair was white as Snow, with a grave Countenance, looking towards the Eaſt; with that I came up to him, and ſaid, How do you Sir! He neitheir turned his Head to the Right, nor to the Left, but looked ſteady towards the Eaſt, with that my fear came upon me: Now I tho't of my dying Hour; for which my loins were filled with pain, pangs took hold of me, as the Pangs of a Woman that travaileth; I am bowed down at the thought of it, my Heart panteth, fearfulneſs affrightned me; for the redemption of the Soul is precious, for it ceaſeth forever. But taking Courage I ſpake to him again: Pray Sir, tell me what is the meaning of that great Company that is coming towards us? Why, ſaid he, the old Man not turning his Head, but looking ſtill towards the Eaſt, this great Company which you now ſee coming towards us, is the forerunner of great Trouble, that is coming upon *New-England*: With that I heard a Voice ſaying Watchman, what of the Night? Watchman, what of the Night? With that cried the old Man what of the Times? What of the Times? With that a Voice cried Midnight, Midnight, Darkneſs is ſpreading itſelf over the Face of the whole Earth O the Diſtreſs and Anguiſh, that is a coming

upon *New-England.* With that I cried, what is the Matter? What, said the old Man is your Eyes not open, or can't you see? Are you without understanding? Do but consider of God's Favours in Times past to *New-England.* How wonderful did God appear for the Deliverance of the Inhabitants of *New-England*, when that vast Army and Fleet of Ships was sent by France, for the Destruction of this People. They arrived at Halifax, with Hopes to make up their Fleet, to destroy us: But God in a wonderful Manner work'd in his Providence for their Destruction, destroyed their Army, and defeated the whole Fleet, and sent them back, not suffering them to do us any harm.

Likewise since that, other pla[illegible] has been destroyed by Earthquakes, and yet preserved *New-England*: Likewise subdued their Enemies before them; God hath been wonderfully working out their Deliverance from Time to Time: But for all these Things, they have returned no Thanks.

But pray Sir, tell me what you are a looking at so steady? Why don't you see what I am looking at? No Sir, I don't, well, I will tell you? I am looking at a blazing Star, for such a strange one was never seen before; the Blaze extending itself almost Six Hundred Miles; the Blaze going before the Star, the Blaze hanging towards the West, which denotes great Troubles to arise in *Old England*, which shall spread themselves in *New England*, for the Inhabitants thereof, having greivously corrupted their Ways before the Lord; the People have cast off all fear; No Truth, nor justice in them, for which the Earth must Mourn, and the Inhabitants thereof languish and die out of it. Such

a Day ſcarce ever was known, as is coming upon the Earth.

By this Time, that great Company comes up very near us: And as I was looking upon them, they ſpread every Way at onee; there ſays the old Gentelmen, don't you ſee that great Company, how they ſpread themſelves every way at once? Well, ſays the old Man, do you know the Meaning of it? I do not ſaid I; well I will tell you? God will ſend forth his Judgments upon the Earth, which ſhall ſpread themſelves every way at once to afflict the Children of Men, becauſe they have wickedly departed from God; for which the Thunder Bolts of God's Wrath hangs over our heads, ready to be pronounced upon you; the Deſtruction God intends to ſend upon the Earth, will come with ſpeed; for as the Star was ſeen in the Evening, and ſince that to be ſeen at break of Day, and was ſoon out of Sight; And as for the Company that you ſee how ſoon they ſpread themſelves, ſo God will ſoon bring his Judgments upon you; inaſmuch as the People of *New-England* have rejected the Counſel of God, and fooliſhly departed from his Ways, therefore ſhall a Curſe go forth which ſhall deſtroy the wicked from the Earth. I turning myſelf about by the ſide of a great Mountain, at which ſide was a great Rock opened, in which appeared to me a fine Room beautified to ſuch a Degree, that no Eye could look upon it, without admiration. But what ſurprized me moſt of all, there ſtood a Man with his Hands and eyes lifted up to Heaven, pleading with God for *New-England*; his earneſt Expreſſions would fill a Soul with Admiration and Amazement, crying Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord

God, no Power like thy Power; the foundation of the Earth trembles at thy Voice; thy Dominion is an everlasting Dominion, and thy Days have no end. Lord, for the sake of thy dear Son the Lord Jesus Christ, remember thy Covenant with thy People of old, the Oath that thou sware to thy Servants: Lord what is Man, that thou shouldest contend with him; O Lord spare thou the Inhabitants of *New-England*? O Lord let it repent thee of the Evil that thou art about to bring upon the People of *New-England: O! New-England, New-England, New-England*, had thou known in this thy Day the things which belong to thy Peace, but now they are hid from thine Eyes. With that the Rock shut up, and so I heard no more from him. I then turned myself about, not knowing what to do, or whither to go, for hearing nothing but the Destruction of my people on every side, my Soul sunk almost within me, all that I could say, was these Words; What Time I am afraid I will put my trust in the Lord. These words I repeated very often; but at last spake the old Man: Friend said he, it is almost Day, I must be going; but before I depart I must tell you, that you must return from whence you came, and declare to all your Friends, and the Neighbours round about you, what you have seen and heard, and exhort all People to a speedy preparation: Let all both young and old, both bond and free, rich and poor, make their request to God: For such a time is coming, that *New-England* never saw; for the first vials of God's Wrath that is spoken of in Revelation, will be poured out very soon upon the Earth, such sore Judgments and Calamities *New-England* never see

before, with that ſuch a bitter Lamentation was heard around me, that would almoſt melt the Heart of a Stone; ſuch a Lamentation, bitter cries, put me beyond myſelf: I ſtood amazed, but I heard a Voice crying, how long O Lord, how long ſhall thy Anger burn againſt thy People? How long ſhall theſe things be ſo; I awoke and it was a DREAM.

A Short Exhortation to all into whoſe Hands my Dream ſhall fall.

COURTEOUS Reader, my diſtreſs to you is unknown; for ever ſince the 18th of September laſt, which was my Birth Day, for that Day I was 48 years of Age, thirty three of which I have been confined to my Houſe, not ſo much as lifted my Hand to my Head, but how unworthy do I think myſelf to be favour'd with the leaſt of God's Mercies. O! what a poor maimed Creature am I that I ſhould make mention of the Name of the Lord. But with a ſincere regard for God's Glory, and for the everlaſting good of your poor immortal Souls, I would aſk you one Queſtion? What think you of an eternal World? Well then, if you will own that there is ſuch a place as a Heaven and Hell, a beginning to Eternity, and no End? O Soul! Aſk your ſelf the Queſtion; to which of theſe two Places do you belong? Can you look up and ſay, God and your ſouls are no ſtrangers; or do you live as you liſt, in the fulfillment of your Luſts, working wickedneſs, crying to your ſelves Peace and Safety!

O let me tell you, O Sinner, your Damnation ſlumbereth not, therefore look about you, for tis high time to awake out of this dead ſleep, into which you are fallen; the time is coming upon you, that God will take vengeance on the wicked, and them that know him not: O Sinner, what excuſe do you intend to make, when God's Vengeance ſhall overtake you? Why, you muſt then ſet yourſelf to bear that, which you can't bear; to go forward will be intolerable, to go backward will be impoſſible: Angels will glory in your Damnation, and final ſepar tion, baniſhment from the preſence of God; tell me what Heart can endure, or Hands be ſtrong, in the Day of God's Viſitation? When he ſhall come to take vengeance on the wicked, and them that know him not; then for thoſe horrid Oaths, which you are now Belching forth, without having any regard to your poor ſouls: will then be brought to your Remembrance. O! you will be ready to Curſe the Day that you was born into the World, to think you had no more reſtraint upon your Luſts. O how have I ſpent my time away in Sin and vanity, Curſing, Swearing, Lying, Stealing, Prophaning God's holy Sabbaths, and waſting my precious time in Gaming and other fooliſh Recreations. I ſay theſe thoughts, when you come to die, will be as ſo many Swords to pierce your ſouls: O my Friends, my Neighbours, my Acquaintance, be prevail'd upon: O let my intreaties prevail with you from henceforth, to break off your Sins by Righteouſneſs; cry to God for his converting Grace: O for that Power, which raiſed Lazarus out of the Grave? Lord raiſe our dead Hearts!

O how dead are we, no more concern'd, than if we had no Souls to be ſaved. What! can we eat and drink, and ſpend away our precious time without any Concern, not conſidering that our Souls lies at ſtake. O! amazing ſtupidity: What, not concern'd when death is at the Door, and our ſins crying for Vengeance: How do you intend to Eſcape? What plea can or will you make in the Day of God's Viſitation? O ſinner do but conſider with whom it is you have to do with; it is the Judge of the whole Earth; it is the Lord Jehovah, who is everlaſting Strength, whoſe Anger is ſaid to be as Rivers of Fire and Brimſtone. Well, don't you think it will be a fearful thing to fall into the Hands of the living God. The cry of the Sins of the People is gone up before the Lord for our Sins are waxed great before him, therefore he may well Complain, that in vain he hath ſmitten your Children, for we have received no Correction; if God's Afflictions will not drive us, nor his Mercies lead us, we are undone forever.

Therefore let young and old cry to God for deep humiliation, and endeavour I pray you, to be made ſenſible of the need that you ſtand in, of being born again, and created anew in Chriſt. O ſearch deep: Lay the foundation ſtrong; for my concern for myſelf and others is great; my Friends be aſſured, God is about to bring ſore and heavy Judgments on us, ſuch as never was ſeen in this Land before: But my greateſt fear is, that God will ſuffer Perſecution to ariſe among us, for as I was told in my Dream by that old Man, that trouble would ariſe in *Old England*, which would be ſpread in *New*, gives me reaſon to think it will be ſo: But

I don't pretend to ſay, but this I am bold to ſay, that God is about to bring great calamities upon the Land, and my Diſtreſs leads me to theſe few Words, even to perſuade all of thoſe into whoſe Hands theſe lines may fall, to give up themſelves to God, to call upon him by earneſt Prayer and Supplication: and with a ſtrong and fixed reſolution, to break off our Sins by Righteouſneſs. O that God would give us a Heart to cloſe with Chriſt immediately; let me tell you, delays are Dangerous: O what madneſs will it be in us, to delay one Hour longer, for by doing it, we might looſe our Souls for ever. Once gone, and gone forever; one Minute after Death, there will be no altering our Condition any more. O Eternity! Eternity! what amazing thing muſt this be to an immortal Soul that miſſes of Chriſt, to be finally baniſhed from the Preſence of God, to a place of everlaſting deſpair, welt'ring under the ſcalding Drops of God's Wrath time without end. Who can chuſe but weep and lament: What! to be ſent to Hell, where there is nothing but Devils, and damned Spirits to be our Company to all Eternity; 'tis enough to make our Hearts to tremble within us, and to fill our Minds with diſtreſs and fear. Yet how many will cry out, I will be damn'd if it is not ſo and ſo; another crying out damnation ſeize my Soul if it is not ſo; to ſuch I would ſpeak one Word or too: Firſt did God make you after his own Image, in his own likeneſs, and endowed you with Knowledge above the Beaſts of the field, to uſe theſe Tongues of yours in belching forth ſuch horrid Oaths as theſe. Suppoſe that God ſhould ſay Amen to your deſire, and in a Minute

take you at your Word and ſend you into Hell, and in Hell to lift up your Eyes and ſee what Company you are like to have forever in Hell to all Eternity.

What amazing thing would this be: Do but conſider how you lie liable to the ſtroke of Death every Moment, and know not but every breath may be the laſt; yet I fear that there is nothing that I can do or ſay that will perſuade you to reform your wicked courſe of Life: How does Sin prevail among us? the Sins of Sabbath-breaking is another horrid Sin in the Sight of God, but is grievouſly provoked by many: O how does diſobedience of Children to Parents prevail over our Land, Cheating, Lying, Stealing, taking God's Name in vain; ſuch Sins as theſe and the like: God's anger is kindled againſt us, and without a ſpeedy Repentance, are undone forever. O what diſturbances, through a wicked Spirit ſpreading in many Towns and Places, finding fault with their Miniſters, many are left to have the Word of God preached among them, out of a covetous Spirit, are loth to maintain the Goſpel of Chriſt. But behold, the Lord hath ſaid, I ſend a Famine, not of Bread, nor of Water, but of my Spirit: O let me tell you the Times call for great Lamentation. What God is about to do, we know not, but be aſſured of this, that a great overturn of times is a coming on the Land. God is about to bring ſome ſore Judgment upon us; what a diſtreſſing Thing is it to think of, that if we pick out ſome of the beſt of Men we have among us, and place them in publick Buſineſs; how will they ſhift, what turns will they make to ſerve their own turns, or if they take any diſtaſte againſt a Perſon, though he is never ſo innocent, yet thoſe Men will kick

Reaſon out of Doors. And becauſe that they have got a little of this World's wealth, they think that there is none like them, and they will do as they pleaſe, and wrong the diſtreſſed to ſuch a degree, that they are brought to ſuffer Hunger and Cold; to ſuch I ſay, there is a time a coming, that thoſe wrongs will be righted; the meet that you are meaſuring out to others, ſhall be meaſured to you again. Now you can brag and boaſt, and uſe Authority; but know that for all theſe things God will bring you to Judgment: No longer than laſt Week, a young Collegian ſaid to his Uncle, 'tis a damn'd dying Time among us? Yes ſaith the other to him, 'tis a deviliſh Time, we had needs look to our ſteps well: Reader what think you of the Times? is it not high time for us to look about us, even to bethink ourſelves in time. God hath been waiting long; but will ſtrike at laſt; there is no doubt but God is about to bring ſore calamity upon the Land. I am diſtreſſed for the Souls of my fellow creatures; my Friends and Neighbours. Conſider of the Times? Do but only hear, what Swearing, Lying, Cheating, Backbiting, even all ſorts of Prophanneſs is carried on amongſt us, therefore 'tis no wonder that God is Angry with us, is not time to bethink ourſelves, and cry to God for his Help; do but conſider what need we ſtand in of being created a new in Chriſt: Except we are born again, we cannot ſee the kingdom of God. And it is a dying time among us: God is ſhowing his Diſpleaſure, Death is often ſounding in our Ears, we are call'd upon daily, and the call to us is this, be ye alſo ready; how can you think of dying, and dying damn'd! What to be made fuel to feed the

Wrath of God: What, but one ſoul and give that to the Devil: O what madneſs poſſeſſes our Minds, to waſte away our precious time in Sin and vanity. Not conſidering that God will bring us to Judgment; and ſeeing it is ſo, that we muſt die, and come to Judgment, that our naked Souls muſt appear before God's tribunal bar, there to receive a Sentence according to our words & Works in this World; therefore do but conſider what manner of Perſons we ought to be in all manner of Converſation and Godlineſs. This Life is attended with many evils, ſore temptations; I find a dead Heart, O a hard Heart, O I am diſtreſſed for my own Soul and the Souls of others; I am 48 Years old, 30 Years of which I have not gone one Step, or ſtood upon my Legs, 14 Years I have not lifted my hand to my Head, nor ſo much as to turn myſelf in my Bed, my time is nigh that I muſt appear before my Judge: God hath given me a great Opportunity to prepare for Death; but I have found an evil Heart, a deluding World, and a buſy Devil to fight with; and you muſt needs think, that to have all theſe afflictions, which I have had laid upon me, with the ſoul conflicts together, hath been enough to make me cry out as Job did, all theſe things are againſt me, but God in a wonderful manner hath carried me through many a difficult Hour. O bleſſed be God, for the hope I have through Jeſus Chriſt: I might have been confined in Hell, inſtead of being ſhut up in a Houſe on Earth, I might have been ſhut up in Hell to all Eternity; but I bleſs God I am out of Hell, and God is at work with my Soul, altho' that I find great temptations to fight againſt, and many evils ſurrounding of me, and many caſting

reflections on me : But rejoice not againſt me, O my Enemy, for when I fall I ſhall ariſe, when I ſet in Darkneſs, the Lord ſhall be a light unto me ſo with a ſincere Deſire to God's glory, and the peace and comfort of your poor, and never dying Souls, I deſire a ſpeedy Reformation among us all, both Young and Old, for in ſuch an Hour as we think not of, our Lord may call for us.

YOU Virgins all to you I call,
What Oil have you in Store ?
If you have none, you are undone :
O look to it therefore.

You have the Shell, but no Curnel,
The Chaff, but not the Wheat :
The Huſk you take, and do forſake ;
Your Souls moſt precious meet.

THE END.

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